



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3605

June 28, 2022

The Honorable Merrick Garland
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Attorney General Garland,

It has come to our attention that the Mountain Area Pregnancy Services in Asheville, North Carolina was defaced and threatened for being a vital resource to pregnant women in need.¹ The attackers scrawled in red graffiti across the clinic “if abortions aren’t safe neither are you!” Unfortunately, Mountain Area Pregnancy Services is not the only pregnancy resource center to be targeted. CompassCare Community in Buffalo, New York was firebombed by an anti-life group known as “Jane’s Revenge.”² The perpetrators were so brazen as to take credit for the act by spray painting on the facility, “Jane Was Here.” “Jane’s Revenge” has claimed responsibility for numerous attacks against Pro-Life pregnancy centers and organizations.³

Destruction of property, violence, and threats of violence have no place in a healthy and flourishing society. These attacks represent yet another development in a disturbing pattern of intimidation against crisis pregnancy centers and Pro-Life organizations.⁴ Attacks like those perpetrated against Mountain Area Pregnancy Services and others require swift justice. While these actions undoubtedly violated state law, the federal Department of Justice (DOJ) also has the power to prosecute these crimes under the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act of 1994.⁵ Congress enacted this legislation not just for abortion clinics but also to protect clinics

¹ Bethany Fowler, *Pregnancy Center Vandalized in Asheville*, QUEEN CITY NEWS (June 4, 2022), <https://www.fox46.com/news/u-s/north-carolina/pregnancy-center-vandalized-in-asheville/>.

² Luke Funk, *New York anti-abortion center firebombed*, FOX 5 NEW YORK (June 8, 2022), <https://www.fox5ny.com/news/new-york-anti-abortion-center-firebombed>.

³ Caroline Downey, *Pro-Abortion Terrorists Firebomb Buffalo Pro-Life Pregnancy Center*, NATIONAL REVIEW (June 7, 2022), <https://www.nationalreview.com/news/pro-abortion-terrorists-firebomb-buffalo-pro-life-pregnancy-center/>.

⁴ Jordan Boyd, *Will The FBI Do Anything About The Alarming Number Of Attacks On Pro-Life Centers Following SCOTUS Leak?*, THE FEDERALIST (June 8, 2022), <https://thefederalist.com/2022/06/08/what-will-the-fbi-do-about-the-alarming-number-of-attacks-on-pro-life-centers-following-scotus-leak/>.

⁵ 18 U.S.C. § 248.

that offer a range of Pro-Life services to women, including counseling services and adoption consultations.⁶

To that end, we request you to respond to the following questions no later than June 30, 2022:

1. What steps has DOJ taken to investigate and prosecute individuals threatening and defacing Pro-Life pregnancy centers?
2. Since May 2022, how many prosecutions has DOJ initiated that include charges under 18 U.S.C. § 248? If none, please explain your failure to act thus far.
3. What resources are you providing to facilities that provide reproductive health services to deter attacks perpetrated by anti-life organizations?
4. Since 1994, how many cases has the DOJ prosecuted under 18 U.S.C. § 248 involving facilities that provide resources and counseling on alternatives to abortion?
5. For each case described in question 4, provide the name of each defendant, the outcome of the case, and any of the defendant's prior or subsequent criminal records in the DOJ's possession.

Failing to provide justice for victims of these attacks will only further embolden violent criminals. I fear abdicating your duty to prosecute crimes against Pro-Life pregnancy resource centers will put additional innocent lives at risk. More must be done to protect women and their right to access information on abortion alternatives.

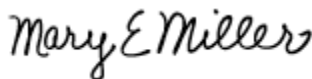
Sincerely,



Ted Budd
Member of Congress



Bob Good
Member of Congress



Mary Miller
Member of Congress

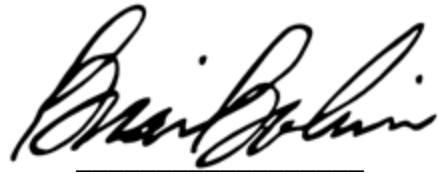


Ralph Norman
Member of Congress

⁶ See, e.g., *Terry v. Reno*, 101 F.3d 1412, 1419 (D.C. Cir. 1996) (“The Access Act thus does not play favorites: it protects from violent or obstructive activity not only abortion clinics, but facilities providing pre-pregnancy and pregnancy counseling services, as well as facilities counseling alternatives to abortion.”); S. Rept. No. 103-117, at 40 (1993) (Senate Judiciary Committee report); H. Rept. No. 103-488, at 13 (1994) (Conference Committee report).



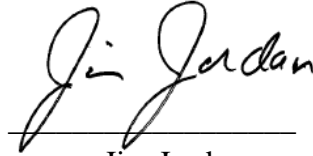
Jim Banks
Member of Congress



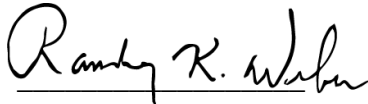
Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



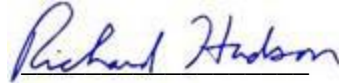
Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



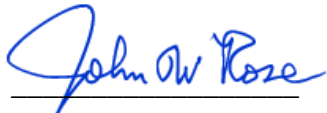
Jim Jordan
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber
Member of Congress



Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



John Rose
Member of Congress



Ben Cline
Member of Congress



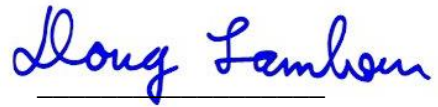
Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress



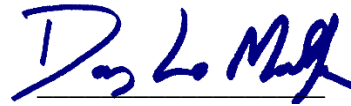
Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



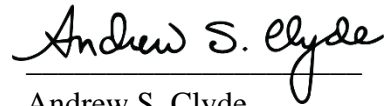
Jodey Arrington
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Jody Hice
Member of Congress



Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress